



# The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon

31 January & 1 February: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese. In the Beatitudes we see the values a Christian should live by. While they present a great challenge, they also offer great rewards both here and hereafter. There's no doubt it is hard to be a peacemaker in an age of conflict and division, but this is what we are all called to be. Jesus' call to his followers is to become a blessing for others, proclaimers of the Good News destined for the salvation of all.

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

*In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.*

Seek the Lord  
all you, the humble of the earth,  
who obey his commands.  
Seek integrity,  
seek humility:  
you may perhaps find shelter  
on the day of the anger of the Lord.  
In your midst I will leave  
a humble and lowly people,  
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the  
name of the Lord.  
They will do no wrong,  
will tell no lies;  
and the perjured tongue will no longer  
be found in their mouths.  
But they will be able to graze and rest  
with no one to disturb them.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is  
theirs!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-12

*Happy are the poor in spirit.*

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:  
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute  
you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my  
account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be  
great in heaven.'

## INTERCESSIONS

*Let us turn to the Lord and seek refuge in his name for God hears our every prayer.*

We pray for our Holy Father, the Pope, and the bishops: that the Church may provide a moral compass for any who have lost their way in life.

For all in positions of authority: that they may be gentle and merciful in their dealings with those they serve.

For those that mourn: may we as Christ's followers do everything possible to ensure they are comforted.

For those who work for peace and justice among nations: that their efforts bear fruit.

For those that suffer for doing what is right: that they may be strong.

We pray for those who are ill especially Veronica Boros.

We pray for those who have died recently especially Gioconda La Motta, Raimondo Fazio, Paul Lightfoot and Patricia Fraser. For those we remember at this time, especially: Angela-Antonietta Salpietro, John Rodrigues, Francesco Balik, Paddy Fitzgerald and Salvatrice Calvaresi.

*Loving Father, you sent Jesus to be our teacher and our saviour. Hear these prayers and form us as the community of the beatitudes. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

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**WHICH PRIEST WHERE** This weekend Fr John will preside at all St Therese's Masses plus Saturday 5:00pm Vigil at OLN while Fr Bernie Lane will celebrate Sunday 10:00am Mass at OLN. Fr Tony is taking a break and we'll see him in a few weeks. Next weekend we will welcome Columban Frs Hegerty, Howard and Barrett who will preside at all Masses for the annual Columban Missions appeal weekend.

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**A MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN** A note of thanks to all who sent me personal Christmas greetings and gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is much appreciated. Thanks also to those who contributed to the Christmas offerings directly to the presbytery account, for the support of clergy in general. It is just not possible to express personal thanks, given the number of contributors in each parish community. John Hannon PP

**COLUMBAN MISSION APPEAL** Next weekend 7 & 8 February we will hold an appeal to support the work of the St Columban's Mission. Columban Missionaries live and share the Gospel of Jesus through working with poor and exploited people; seeking justice and dignity for those denied their rights; developing faith communities in the local church; promoting dialogue between other religions; growing a culture of peace; and advocating care for the earth and environment.

**HOW TO DONATE:** Columban Mission donation envelopes will be available at Mass NEXT WEEKEND. We will also ask our collectors to stand at the doors NEXT WEEKEND for a leaving collection.

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**PARISH ACTIVITIES RESUME** Many regular parish activities are starting up again in February.

**BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASSES** will be held at OLN at 9:00am on Friday 6 February and at St Therese's at 10:00am on Friday 13 February.

**ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP** Meets each Wednesday in the Annex from 9:00am.

**GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP** Meets each Thursday in the PACE meeting room from 10:30am.

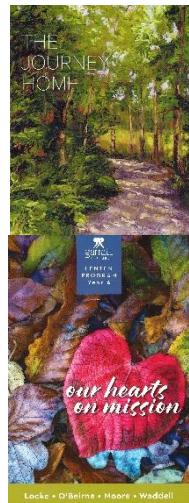
**TINY TS PLAYGROUP** Moves to Friday mornings at 9:30am in PACE beginning Friday 6 February.

**KIDS AT MASS** will return on Saturday 7 February at St Therese's at 6:00pm Mass.

**ALPHA CONNECT** Meets the second Monday of each month in PACE function room at 7:00pm.

**SHARING MEMORIES GROUP** Will meet in The Annex on Tuesday 10 February at 10:30am and then will move to their usual first Tuesday of each month commencing from March.

**PARISH FRIENDSHIP GROUP** Monthly morning teas will begin the year with two special Tuesday events in PACE function room. The first is on Shrove Tuesday 17 February and the second will be Tuesday 17 February for St Patrick's Day and will then move to their usual third Thursday of each month.



**LENT REFLECTION BOOKS** Two Lenten books are available from the parish office (credit/debit card payment preferred) or from church sacristies at Mass times. We do not keep cash in the parish so there is no guarantee that change can be given for cash sales.

**THE JOURNEY HOME** With guest writer, Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge, former Archbishop of Brisbane. This resource, designed for individuals and groups, offers simple, easy-to-follow prompts for small group leaders to use each Sunday during Lent. Each weekday includes a beginning prayer, a short scripture text, a reflection, some thoughts to provoke reflection and/or discussion and a closing prayer. \$6 per copy

**OUR HEARTS OUR MISSION** Every Lent we are invited to undertake a journey of self-discovery and growth. Created by Garratt Publishing for group or personal study, Our Hearts on Mission is a modern Lenten program that guides us through the six weeks of Lent. Each year has its own glimmer, reflecting the Light at work in our particular situation. Accordingly, this year, in the commentaries for the Sunday readings there are reflections of the Augustinian light that Pope Leo is offering us. Our Lenten light is refracted with his call to mission and his spiritual foundations in the writings of St Augustine. Each week, the Sunday reflections break open the readings to strengthen our self-denial and build our spiritual resilience. This year, the four authors bring a diversity of voices, offering fresh insights into our Lenten tasks and our orientation for mission. \$8 per copy

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**NEW OFFICE HOURS** From Monday 2 February the parish office will operate remotely (doors closed) on Mondays 9:00am until 3:00pm and will operate as usual (doors open) Tuesday to Friday 9:00am until 3:00pm.

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**ESSENDONWEST EMAIL SHUTDOWN** Please note that the mailbox [essendonwest@cam.org.au](mailto:essendonwest@cam.org.au) is scheduled for deactivation early 2026. All email communications to the parish should now be directed to [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au)

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS** Are made from wheat starch and water with a gluten content of 6.2 parts per million.

#### MINISTRY ROSTER FOR THIS WEEKEND 31 JANUARY & 1 FEBRUARY (WEEK 1)

MASS	READERS	EUCARIST
OLN 5:00pm	John Harris	Tatiana Polizzi
OLN 10:00am	Paula O'Byrne	Andrew Scaramozzino
St T's 6.00pm	Eve Korytkowski	Gina Bell & Maggie Catterall
St T's 9.00am	Mary Dowling & Margaret Kerr	Carmen Merrigan & Rosina Tempini
St T's 10.30am	Silvia Campo & George Jungwirt	Miriam Gandolfo & Maria Giampiccolo

#### MINISTRY ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEKEND 7 & 8 FEBRUARY (WEEK 2)

MASS	READERS	EUCARIST
OLN 5:00pm	Georgina Kucera & John Harris	Kathy Ferguson
OLN 10:00am	Mark Donahoo	Douglas D'Cruz
St T's 6.00pm	John O'Connor	Tony Proctor & Trish Giacomin
St T's 9.00am	Lynette Russo	Tony Belcastro & David Gloury
St T's 10.30am	Lucy Angelico	Rosa Pierorazio & Marg Moore

**Online resource for Sunday Readings:** <https://sundayreadingsandreflections.weebly.com/Urtl0m1hb.html>

# SHARING memories

A Friendship group supporting parishioners through life's challenges including:

- Grief and loss
- Relationship breakdowns
- Life changes

Monthly Morning Tea  
First Tuesday of each month  
10:30am in the Annex  
(room located behind St Therese's church)

**Next date: Tuesday 10 February  
after Christmas break**

- YOU ARE WELCOME

KAM WILL RETURN FOR 2026  
NEXT WEEKEND

**SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY**  
AT ST THERESE'S 6:00PM MASS



Primary school-aged children can listen to Jesus' message in a child friendly and engaging way. Children who are not yet at school should be accompanied by parent/s

ESSENDON PARISH

## Columban Missions Appeal

**Weekend 7 & 8 February**

Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

*St Gregory Nazianzen*



**Tiny Ts Playgroup**  
IS MOVING TO FRIDAYS  
IN 2026

All-weather with indoor and outdoor space  
For infant to school-aged children  
Grandparents welcome!



**TINY TS IS ON A BREAK FOR  
THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND  
WILL RETURN  
FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY  
9:30AM IN PACE**

Monday 2 February	The Presentation of the Lord Statue of Our Lady moves to the Tran family	
Tuesday 3 February	Requiem Mass for Raimondo Fazio at OLN church	11:30am
Wednesday 4 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 5 February	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room Mass at Trevi Court Aged Care	10:30am 11:00am
Friday 6 February	Beginning of School Year Mass at OLN Tiny Ts Playgroup returns for 2026 in PACE function room	9:00am 9:30am
Weekend 7 & 8 February	Appeal for the Columban Missionaries	
Monday 9 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Asher family Alpha Connect evening returns for 2026 in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 10 February	Sharing Memories Group morning tea in the Annex	10:30am
Wednesday 11 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am
Thursday 12 February	Gospel Reflections in PACE Meeting Room SVDP Regional Council Meeting in PACE	10:30am 7:00pm
Friday 13 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Beginning of Year Whole School Mass at St Therese's	9:30am 10:00am
Sunday 15 February	Parish Morning Tea after morning Masses at St Therese's Parish Morning Tea after 10:00am Mass at OLN Parish Baptism Welcoming Mass at St Therese's	10:30am
Monday 16 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Sequeira family SVDP Essendon Conference meeting in PACE	7:00pm
Tuesday 17 February	Shrove Tuesday Parish Friendship Group pancake morning tea in PACE	10:30am
Wednesday 18 February	Ash Wednesday: Lent Begins Project Compassion Appeal Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex Ash Wednesday: St Therese's School Mass Men's Coffee Group at Lincoln Food Store Ash Wednesday: Mass at OLN Ash Wednesday: evening Mass St Therese's	9:00am 10:00am 10:45am 5:30pm 7:00pm
Friday 20 February	Tiny Ts Playgroup in PACE function room Stations of the Cross at St Therese's Stations of the Cross at OLN	9:30am 3:00pm 6:00pm
Sunday 22 February	First Sunday of Lent Parish Baptisms at St Therese's	12:00pm
Monday 23 February	Statue of Our Lady moves to the Misquitta family	
Wednesday 25 February	Italian Prayer Group Meet in St Therese's Annex	9:00am

**ST THERESE'S CHURCH**  
48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

**Weekday Services:** Tuesday to Friday 10:00am  
**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 6:00pm  
 Sunday 9:00am & 10:30am  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 5:45pm

**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH**  
31 Fawkner St, Aberfeldie

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday 5:00pm  
 Sunday 10:00am  
**Reconciliation:** Saturday 4:45pm

**PARISH PRIEST** Fr John Hannon

**Office phone:** 9401 6330 **Office address:** 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon

**Office email:** [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) **Website:** [www.essendoncatholic.org.au](http://www.essendoncatholic.org.au)

**Office hours:** Monday to Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm (Office not open to the public on Mondays)

**After-Hours phone:** 0490 956 610 (answering service)

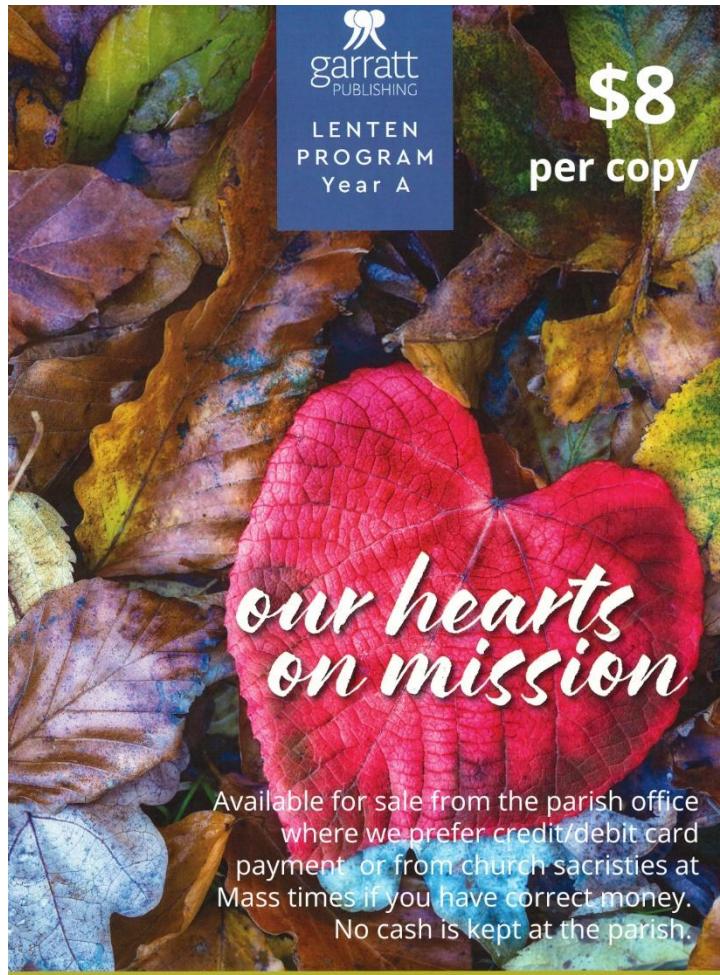
**St Vincent de Paul Helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

To subscribe to our newsletter go to the link below or use the QR code:  
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/subscription?id=0012w00000LOj4wAAD&req=subscribe>

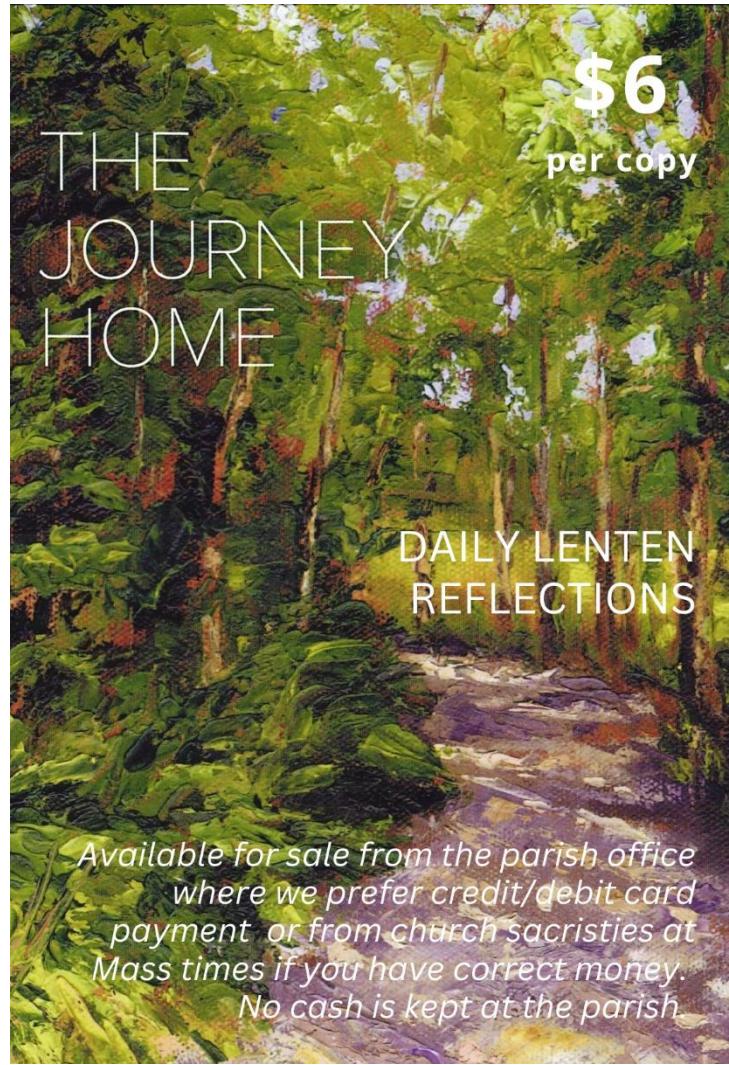


*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land of the Kulin Nation who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.*



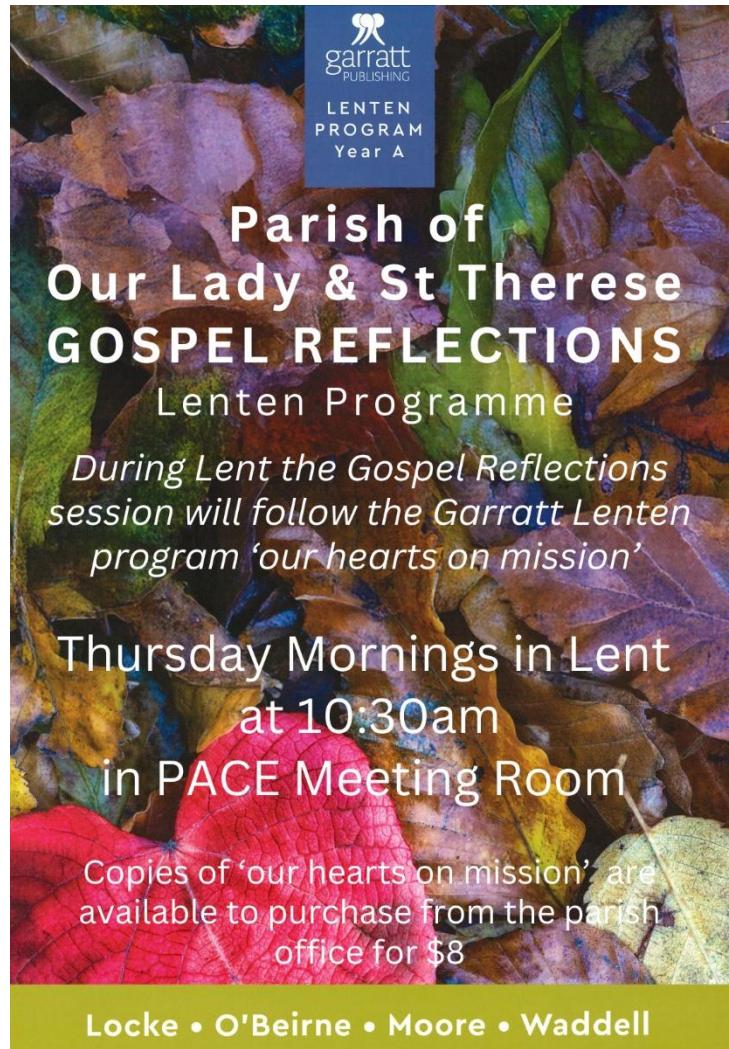
Locke • O'Beirne • Moore • Waddell



Share your gifts, talents and energy to build our parish community

- Mass & Liturgy
- Outreach & Community
- Education & Formation
- Administration & Development
- Property

Brochures available on church entrance tables or scan the QR code for online version



# Parish Friendship Group Shrove Tuesday Pancake Morning Tea

PACE FUNCTION ROOM  
Tuesday 17 February  
from 10:30am  
(After morning Mass)

All welcome

## PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ST THERESE SAFEGUARDING

### Volunteers must:

- Hold a current Working With Children Check and must list the parish as a place you volunteer
- Complete the CAM Safeguarding Essentials Training Certification every three years
- Acknowledge The Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct every three years

### DOES THIS APPLY TO YOU?

 SCAN  
FOR  
DETAILS

**YES**

Church Cleaning ~ Collector ~ Counter  
Data Projector Operator ~ Eucharistic Minister  
Finance Committee ~ Gardening ~ Kids at Mass  
Lector ~ Liturgy Team  
Maintenance ~ Men's Choir ~ Music Ministry  
Parish Leadership Team ~ Pastoral Visitation  
Play Group Leader (Tiny T's)  
Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group  
Sacristan ~ Parish Friendship Group  
Special Projects ~ Wedding Helper ~ Welcoming Team

**DO THE SAFEGUARDING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO YOU?**  
**NO MATTER HOW YOU VOLUNTEER IN THE PARISH**  
**THE ANSWER IS YES**

To maintain accurate records ALL volunteers must be registered parishioners



**Save for a  
Greater  
Reward**

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates,  
it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit [www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund)  
or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information

